



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,000	02/13/2002	Hiroshi Yamamoto	SCEI 3.0-118	7154
530	7590	02/18/2005	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			SKED, MATTHEW J	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2655		

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/075,000	YAMAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew J Sked	Art Unit 2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/8/02</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Hoory et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,785,649).

As per claims 1, 7, 9 and 10, Hoory teaches a method, apparatus, computer-readable recording medium and program for processing information, comprising:
extracting information expressing a characteristic of speech information (determines word rate, volume and pitch, Fig. 2, elements 34, 36, and 38);
converting the speech information to character data (converts speech to text, Fig. 2, element 32); and

subjecting the character data to prescribed processing based on the information expressing the characteristic (speech characteristics are mapped to text format characteristics and associated with the generated text, col. 6, lines 34-37).

4. As per claim 2, Hoory teaches the prescribed processing changes a character form of the character data (speech characteristics are mapped to different text fonts and sizes, table 1).

5. As per claim 3, Hoory teaches the prescribed processing changes a control code of the speech information (performs a mapping to map the speech characteristic to a code that controls the text format, col. 6, lines 50-64, and Table 1).

6. As per claim 4, Hoory teaches the extracting step extracts information expressing an emotion from the speech information (determines word rate, volume and pitch, the emotion of a voice is characterized by its rate, volume or pitch, for example someone who is angry would speak at a high volume while someone who is nervous would speak at a high speech rate, hence these speech characteristics express an emotion, Fig. 2, elements 34, 36, and 38).

7. As per claim 5, Hoory teaches sending the character data processed by the prescribed processing to a network (encodes the expressive text and transmits it to a receiver, col. 5, lines 40-47).

8. As per claim 6, Hoory teaches a method for processing information including character data, comprising:

extracting from the character data at least a prescribed character code and one of a prescribed word and a prescribed phrase as prescribed information (converts text

to speech so it must extract a word or phrase and extracts non-verbal characteristics from the text uses the mapping to determine the character code, col. 9, line 58 to col. 10, line 7);

converting the character data to speech information (converts text to speech, col. 9, line 58 to col. 10, line 7); and

subjecting the character data or speech information to prescribed processing based on the extracted prescribed information (produces speech with non-verbal characteristics, col. 9, line 58 to col. 10, line 7),

wherein the prescribed processing performs either processing to add a word expressing an emotion or processing to perform conversion to a word expressing an emotion (synthesizes speech according to non-verbal characteristics hence converting the word to express the emotion, col. 9, line 58 to col. 10, line 7).

9. As per claim 8, Hoory teaches an information transmission system, comprising:

a first information processing apparatus, which captures input information, extracts information expressing a characteristic of the input information (determines word rate, volume and pitch, Fig. 2, elements 34, 36, and 38);

changes the input information to character data (converts speech to text, Fig. 2, element 32);

subjects the character data to prescribed processing based on the information expressing the characteristic (speech characteristics are mapped to text format characteristics and associated with the generated text, col. 6, lines 34-37);

sends the character data subjected to the prescribed processing to a network (encodes the expressive text and transmits it to a receiver, col. 5, lines 40-47);
a second information processing apparatus, which receives character data via the network, extracts prescribed information from the character data (receiver decodes marked-up text as expressive text and uses the non-verbal characteristics in synthesis hence extracting them, col. 5, lines 44-53);
changes the character data to other information (converts expressive text back to speech, col. 5, lines 50-53), and
subjects the character data or other information to prescribed processing based on the extracted prescribed information (synthesizes the speech from text using the non-verbal characteristics, col. 5, lines 50-53).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Abe (U.S. Pat. 5,940,797) and Holm et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,260,016) teach methods for speech synthesis using information extracted from the text.

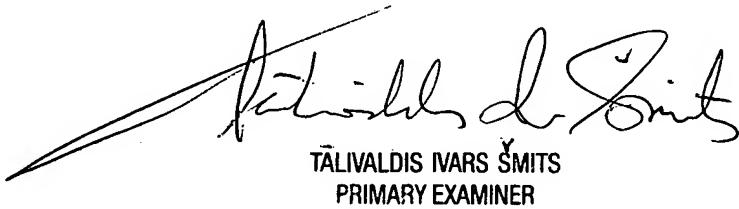
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J Sked whose telephone number is (703) 305-8663. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis Smits can be reached on (703) 306-3011. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2655

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MS
02/15/04



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Talivaldis Ivars Smits".

TALIVALDIS IVARS SMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER